



**Mud Lake Complex**  
**Southern Area Red Team**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2015 2:00 PM**  
**Fire Information Office, 413-531-4276**  
[Mudlakecomplex@gmail.com](mailto:Mudlakecomplex@gmail.com)



Catherine Hibbard, Public Information Officer  
 Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4260/>

**Fire Information:**

Current Status	The Mud Lake Complex is comprised of several fires caused by lightning strikes in the Big Cypress National Preserve located in Southwest Florida, near Naples. The fires have burned a total of 4,049 acres of various Preserve habitats which primarily include: dense, course grass; pine timber; and Cypress domes. Currently, containment of the fires is 20 percent. Today, the fires are expected to grow due to higher temperatures and lower relative humidity, combined with winds out of the Southeast. Pockets of heavier interior fuels will most likely continue to burn. Wildland firefighters will monitor fires while improving the road system to build containment lines. Firefighters will monitor smoke along the I-75 corridor and determine protection needs to suppress fire and smoke activity.	
Planned Events	Transfer of command from the Type 3 organization managed by Jon Wallace to the Type-1 Southern Area Red Team, managed by Mike Dueitt, occurred this morning. Excess personnel and equipment will continue to be released or reassigned to fires throughout the Complex. Crews will continue to patrol, monitor and mop up hot spots using low impact fire suppression tactics to protect sensitive animals, such as the endangered Florida panther and threatened red-cockaded woodpeckers.	
Fire	Estimated acreage as of May 14, 2015	Start Date
Ellison	3,143	May 8
Ellipse	214	May 10
Mist	11	May 10
Circle	564	May 10
Square	116	May 10
Dot 1	1	May 12
Dot 2	Less than 1	May 13
Personnel	99	
Equipment	6 helicopters (2 large, 1 medium, 3 small), 3 wildland fire engines, 4 fixed-wing aircraft	
Cooperators	National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Division of Forestry, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Florida Highway Patrol, Collier County (Florida) Office of Emergency Management	
Restrictions and Closures	A temporary flight restriction is in place for a 12 mile radius. Access to lands managed by Big Cypress National Preserve south of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 75 (Turner River Road), south to Upper Wagon Wheel Road is temporarily restricted. The closure also extends to lands administered by Big Cypress National Preserve north of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 70, north to the Big Cypress Preserve Boundary. These areas will be closed to provide public and firefighter safety in areas of high fire activity. These areas are closed to all recreational use including Off-Road Vehicles (ORV), hiking, and camping. This area includes portions of the Florida National Scenic Trail from mile 12, traveling north to the northern boundary of Big Cypress National Preserve.	
Fire Weather	Partly cloudy with 20% chance of isolated storms to the west of current fire locations. Temperatures will reach 93-97 degrees with 40%-44% humidity. Easterly winds could reach 20 MPH by the afternoon.	